

Observations and Commentary on the J. N. Adam Woodlot

July 8, 2006

David Swift and I took a brief walk through a section of the J.N. Adam property west off Hooker Hill Road on Saturday morning to make an assessment of this parcel of land.

Within the first 100 yards of the exploration I noticed a characteristic forest type. At the west edge of a mixed deciduous forest was a section of land that was almost entirely composed of beech (*Fagus Grandifolia*) and Maples (mostly sugar maple, *Acer Saccharum*). It has a text-book classical appearance of no midstory and the canopy is comprised only of these two species. It is a pure stand of the climax forest of a beech-maples! Although they are mature trees of over 100 years old, they are by no means reaching senescence.

Beech-maple forests depend on a long series of successional changes in forest on loamy soils. Only beech and maple trees are able to grow to replace the existing canopy of beech and maples. This means that, once established, this forest type is stable and self-sustaining and has taken a very long time of deep shade to develop.

What is remarkable about this tract of forest is its purity. It is restricted in area probably because of the location where on either side, the topography slopes away, probably changing the soil type. Beech and Maple are exclusive. I suggest it is of ecological and scientific value for this reason.

David pointed out that the blue markings on the trees indicate trees for inventory for logging. If all the marked trees were removed in a short time period, it is almost certain that trees species other than beech maple would move in. The seed source is very near by. If this occurred, the integrity of this unique habitat would be lost. It is my opinion that even if selective cut forestry techniques were used, the purity of this forest type would be lost for generations. Even to harvest the largest trees with the argument that they will rot and waste is non-valid here because these trees are just becoming mature and have at least 100 years before senescence occurs.

It is my recommendation that all efforts by made to protect this pristine part of our natural heritage.

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